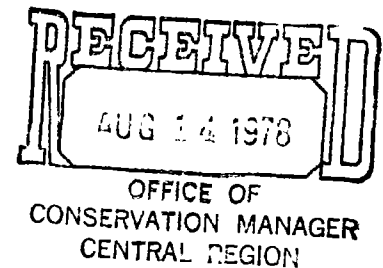


Anaconda - Jackpile -
DENVER Pagueate Uranium
N. Mex

Conservation Division
P. O. Box 26124
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125

August 9, 1978

Mr. R. D. Lynn
General Manager
The Anaconda Company
P. O. Box 638
Grants, New Mexico 87020



Re: Confidentiality of Mine Plan
and Other Information (Your
letter dated August 1, 1978.)

Dear Mr. Lynn:

On February 25, 1977 the mining and reclamation plan for the Anaconda Company's Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine was submitted to this office for review, preparation of an Environmental Assessment and eventual approval after concurrence by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Laguna Tribe and the Secretary of the Interior.

Because of environmental concerns, it has been the policy of the U. S. Geological Survey to make mine plans available for inspection to any interested party. Copies of the mine plan are also sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Tribe. If any part of the mine plan is deemed confidential by the submitter, we suggest this information be placed in a separate binder and be marked confidential. It can then be withheld from the public.

Under the Freedom of Information Act all documents and files in any Federal Government Office can be inspected by the public except for material that falls into nine categories. These categories include geological and geophysical data including ore reserves and financial information. Therefore,

information under items 2 and 4 of your letter is not made public. I have no information in this office under item 3. Under the above cited Act, there is no way I can refuse anyone the right to review your mine plan, less any information you deem confidential. You have not indicated any confidential material in the plan as submitted.

We are now completing a lengthy environmental assessment of the projected mine plan. Any data in the mine plan, not marked confidential, may be used in the assessment

Likewise any interested party has the right to review and comment on the assessment.

Therefore, I am unable to comply with your request to hold your mine plan, less confidential material so marked, confidential. If you now wish to withdraw certain information from the mine plan as confidential, please advise.

Since the mine plan was submitted to this office in 1977, a number of people have reviewed your plan.

If you have further questions or problems with my comments, please advise as I don't want any misunderstandings with my position.

Sincerely yours,

(OR:G. SGD.) A. F. CZARNOWSKY

A. F. Czarnowsky
Area Mining Supervisor